

**Listing of the Claims:**

Claim 1 (Currently Amended): A side sliding door device for a vehicle that opens and closes an entrance on a side of the vehicle by a sliding door movably supported on a horizontal door rail, comprising:

an automatic locking mechanism to be interlocked with a closing operation of ~~said~~ the sliding door to lock the sliding door in a closed state; and

a manual locking mechanism that locks ~~said~~ the sliding door in the closed state by a manual operation,

wherein said manual locking mechanism prevents an unlocking operation of said automatic locking mechanism when the sliding door is in a locked state, and holds ~~said~~ the sliding door in the locked state.

Claim 2 (Original): The side sliding door device for a vehicle as claimed in claim 1, wherein said automatic locking mechanism and said manual locking mechanism are provided on a common base plate on a vehicle body and integrated in a single unit.

Claim 3 (Currently Amended): The side sliding door device for a vehicle as claimed in claim 1, wherein said manual locking mechanism comprises a switch connected with the manual operation, the switch turning off power of an actuator ~~that drives said~~ for driving the sliding door when ~~said~~ the sliding door is manually locked by said manual locking mechanism.

Claim 4 (Original) The side sliding door device for a vehicle as claimed in claim 2, wherein said automatic locking mechanism comprises:

a latch mechanism including a latch bar movably supported in a vertical direction with respect to the vehicle body, and a latch hole provided on the sliding door to receive said latch bar;

unlatching means for releasing a latched state of said latch mechanism; and

latch holding means for holding an unlatched state of said latch mechanism.

Claim 5 (Original): The side sliding door device for a vehicle as claimed in claim 4, wherein said manual locking mechanism comprises:

a rotary lock; and

a lock lever secured to a rotational shaft of said rotary lock, and

wherein when said rotary lock is rotated by a manual operation, said lock lever engages with a lock fastener integral with said latch bar.